

Serial No. 10/619,688

Reply to Office Action dated December 29, 2005

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1-14 and 16-47 are pending in this application. The allowance of claims 1-14 and 16-25 is noted with appreciation. Independent claim 26 has been amended to delete the language objected to as new matter and to specify that the static mixer includes at multiple elongated connectors. Dependent claim 35 has been amended to specify that the connectors extend in parallel and spaced apart relationship. Conforming amendments have also been made to dependent claims 37-41. Independent claim 42 has been amended to delete the language objected to as new matter and to specify that multiple parallel and spaced apart connectors are positioned between the crossing elements. A conforming amendment has been made to dependent claim 46. Independent claim 47 has also been amended to delete the language objected to as new matter and to specify that multiple elongated connectors extend in parallel and spaced apart relationship. Support for the presence of multiple connectors in the amended claims can be found at paragraph 25 of the specification which discloses that "[m]ultiple connectors 18 extending in parallel and spaced apart relationship may also be used."

The present amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Canceling the language objected to in the outstanding Office Action removes an issue as to form and does not require further consideration or search. The remaining amendments should not require further searching or significant further consideration because the amended claims as initially presented required at least one connector and the present amendments simply require the presence of multiple connectors.

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The objection to the specification and the rejection of claims 26-47 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, based on the claim language "and extends at least partially through a slot in the other grid," have been overcome by deleting that language from claims 26, 42, and 47.

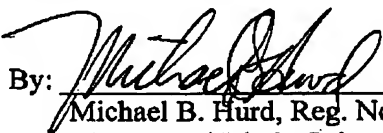
Claims 26-38 and 41-47 stand rejected as either being anticipated by WO 98/47791 or as being obvious over WO 98/47791 in view of Katzen or Horner. As amended, the rejected claims are believed to patentably define over the cited references by specifying that the static mixers include multiple connectors that are secured to the crossing elements of first and second grids. The primary cited reference, WO 98/47791 discloses only a single axially positioned stem 5 to which chutes 3 are attached. There is no teaching or suggestion in that reference to include multiple stems 5. Katzen and Horner likewise teach only a single axially positioned pipe or shaft to which baffles are attached. As a result, the combination of WO 98/47791 with either Katzen or Horner is not suggestive of the claimed static mixers and method of making same in which two or more connectors are utilized in the manner claimed. The remaining art of record similarly fails to provide any motivation to modify WO 98/47791 to include a second stem 5 connected to chutes 3.

Accordingly, it is believed that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Any additional fee due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

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Respectfully submitted,
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